

Engaging Teens Through the Library

Module 6 Community Engagement



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Community Engagement

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A process that includes multiple techniques to promote the participation of residents in community life, especially those who are excluded and isolated, by engaging them in collective action to create a healthy community.

Community Engagement

Is Not

Marketing services

Tabling at local events

Telling people about how great the library is and all the resources available

Focused on the library

Is

Listening

Learning about the community

Finding gaps

Buying the coffee

Focused on the community

What Does this Mean for Teen Services

Survey the community to find out what other organizations and groups work with and for teens

Meet with others and find out what they do with and for teens

Talk with others about where the gaps in supports for teens are within the community

Consider ways you can work together to support teen needs

Plan, develop, fund projects together

For You to Do

- **Read:** Distinguish Your Work: Outreach or Community Engagement?
http://bit.ly/outreach_ce
- **Read:** Impact of Community Engagement
<http://bit.ly/impactce>
- **Read:** Identifying Community Assets and Resources
http://bit.ly/ic_comm_rsrcs
- **Read:** UCLA Center for Health Policy Research: Asset Mapping
http://bit.ly/ucla_asset_mapping

More for You to Do

Activity 1: Community Walk/Drive Around

Ask a colleague or friend to walk or drive around a part of the community with you

Talk the walk or drive and look around with an open mind. Use the activity sheet to record what you see

What was the experience like? Reflect on the experience using the activity sheet reflection section.

Activity 2: Asset Mapping

Use the module activity sheet to begin asset mapping that part of your community